

THE MAPLE

June 2023

Morrisville United Methodist Church

Pastor's Pen

To my dear MUMC family,

As I write my last Maple entry, I pray for your continual spiritual growth both as a church and individually.

We've shared two years together and our stories are forever inter-twined. We have seen MUMC growth with more than ten people joining the church and five baptisms.

The Latino Ministry also thrives as more families are connecting and being supported.

Our in-person attendance has bounced back and we average over 70 persons on a Sunday. This is good progress and I believe God that even more will come.

We lift up Pastor Olga González in prayer as she transitions to be your pastor. She is equipped and sent by God to you. With the grace of God receive her and love her as only Morrisville can do.

Thank you for your love and support these last two years. May the blessings of God be yours forever more!

I love you Morrisville UMC. Peace 🕊️

Luke 14:18-19

Pastor Towanda

Until the arrival of Pastor Olga, the pastor on duty for emergencies only is Pastor Joe Martin, Fallsington UMC, at 215-593-4904 or jomartplayer@aol.com

For the months of June and July the Sunday Bulletin will not contain printed current announcements or an up-to-date prayer list. Announcements will be read during the worship service.

June Calendar

6/1

6:00PM – Prayer Shawl (Lounge)

6/3

9:00AM – Rose Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

6/4

11:30AM – Luncheon for Pastor Towanda (Fellowship Hall)

6/6

5:00PM – IFA Backpacks (Main entrance)

6:30PM - Youth

7:00PM – Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)

6/8

9:00AM Montessori Graduation (Fellowship Hall)

6/10

8:00AM – Men's Bible Study (Lounge)

9:00AM – IFA (Main entrance)

6/13

6:00PM - Youth

6/14

7:00pm – Trustees Meeting (Library)

6/15

6:00PM – Prayer Shawl (Lounge)

6/17

11AM – ESL Graduation Party (Fellowship Hall)

6/19

6:30PM Marcia-Ruth Circle (Janet Fabian's)

6/20

4:00PM Shared Meal (Fellowship Hall)

5:00PM – IFA (Main Entrance)

7:00PM – SPRC Meeting (Library)

6/24

9:00AM – IFA (Main Entrance)

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

10:00 AM – Worship Service

11 AM – Hospitality (Lounge)

7PM – Alcoholics Anonymous (Hall)

Mondays

10:30 AM – ESL Beg. Class (Rm 10)

6:30 PM – ESL Inter. Class (Rm 10)

7PM – Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

7PM – Nar Anon (Prayer Room)

8PM – Narcotics Anonymous (Rm 30/31)

Fridays

7:30PM - NA (RM 30/31)

Saturdays

6:00PM – Latino Worship Service

Reverend Olga E. González Santiago

Autobiography

My name is Olga Elisa González Santiago. I am originally from Puerto Rico, a beautiful island of the Caribbean. My native language is Spanish. I am the oldest daughter of a family of three from my mother and father, and I have three other brothers from my father's side. I have been married for 29 years to Andres A. González, a loving and supportive husband in ministry; we have no children.

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Secretarial Sciences, a Master's Degree in Social work, and a Masters in Divinity from Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College in 2021. Things I enjoy doing is to walk and admire God's creation. I like to sing, read, and write. I also like adult coloring books and my favorite colors are purple, turquoise, and teal. I have a good sense of humor.

My journey with God began when I was a child. My grandmother and aunt on my father's side took me to church when I was a baby. My father and siblings served in the Methodist church in Puerto Rico during their youth. One of my uncles served as a Methodist Elder in Puerto Rico for more than 18 years. Another of my uncles was a missionary for more than 50 years. Now he is a Pastor in a church in Costa Rica. I grew up in a family with clergy, missionaries, men and women of faith; people serving the Lord. That was significant for my faith development. At the age of 28 years old on April 6, 1993, after having been far from God for many years, I had a personal experience with Jesus Christ. I like to call it my "Aldersgate experience." Since then, I've been serving the Lord. God's word is something that is passionate in my heart.

Worship Team News

We will be having some guest pastors on various Sundays during the summer. Pastor Towanda's last Sunday is June 4th. There will be communion, and following the service, a farewell reception for her that all are invited to attend.

Margy Dickson



We have a new Monday morning
prayer call
Dial-in number (US): (667) 770-1373
Access code: 9598705#



**A Special Note of Thanks from Wanda
Long's Family**

Many thanks and blessings to all of you who have helped and are helping to pray and assist me and my family through the shock and pain of losing Wanda so unexpectedly. There have been many comforting comments written with love in the many sympathy cards that we have received. They describe the Wonderful Wanda that we all knew and whose memory we cherish. And I am so thankful for the sixty-two wonderful years of marriage that Wanda and I had and that she did not have to endure any prolonged suffering.

To highlight a few of the many thoughtful reflections about Wanda:

"She was a wonderful person with a giving and kind heart. She showed her love and caring through all the things she did - sewing, crafting, cooking, gardening, organizing and sharing with her many friends and relatives. To know Wanda was to love Wanda. She touched on many lives with her kindness and love for our Lord. Wanda will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know her."

Harold Long and family

Interfaith Food Alliance (IFA) News

The **IFA night at Trenton Thunder** is Friday, June 23rd at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 each and a portion of each ticket sold goes to the IFA to feed those in need. Each year we are able to invite the guests of the IFA pantry to the game with tickets that have been purchased and donated by friends like YOU. So, if you can't GO to the game, you could DONATE the cost of a ticket(s) to send an IFA guest(s) to the game! Please contact Frank Powell (215-791-5820) or Rhonda Rea (215-493-9505) to purchase tickets or donate.

Targeted Donations for May-Cleaning Products & Crackers & Pasta Sauce

Rhonda Rea

Mission u 2023- United Women in Faith

Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation

All Women and Men are invited to participate in this educational event. Interested High School students can come for free!

We are returning to in-person Mission u!

The in-person classes will meet **July 21-22, 2023**, Friday @12 noon thru Saturday @4:00pm, at the Chester Hotel, 815 N Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341. The cost is \$225.00 full time and \$150 for commuters. Youth (entering grade 9-12) are free. Dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday are included. Breakfast is available on Saturday for full time attendees. Study leaders will be Rev. Mary Jane Kirby and Deaconess Allison Francesco.

First-time scholarships are available. If interested contact Carol Gifford at bloomgiff@comcast.com or 215-872-9239. Grants are available for financial need. For information, call Rhonda Rea at 215-493-9505.

This study by Riva Tabelisma gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of four two-hour sessions. Each session examines a section of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 as it is recorded in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. The text for the course is "Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation." (M3378). It must be purchased in advance on the United Women in Faith [e-store](#) for \$14.99. Place one order for multiple study books to decrease shipping costs.

****Registration deadline for in-person is July 10.**

Link for In person Registration-
<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=749920&>

COVID precautions - This event is mask-friendly: handwashing and hand sanitizer use are encouraged.

We also offer an Online Class on Zoom!

The Online class will meet on Zoom **August 8, 10 and 15, 17** Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 – 9 pm. The cost

is \$25.00. Internet access is needed to fully participate in the online class. The Study Leader is Minister Sandi Stovall.
****Registration deadline for Online class is Aug. 1**

Link for the Online Registration-

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=751342&>



United Women in Faith

THE PURPOSE

United Women in Faith is a **community of women** whose purpose is:

- To know God** and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ
- To develop a creative supportive fellowship** and
- To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We welcome all women who commit themselves to our Purpose, including you. You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join. Our membership is diverse: women of many races, cultures, languages, young and old. There is no minimum age requirement.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining this **multicultural, multilingual, and multiracial** organization of women.

All women are welcome to attend!

June Schedule

JUNE 3 (Saturday)

ROSE BREAKFAST – 9:30 A.M.

Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Amazing American Athlete, portrayed by Linda Kenyon

JUNE 19

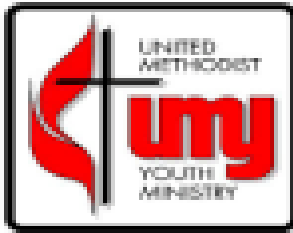
MARCIA-RUTH CIRCLE – 6:30 P.M.

Picnic at Janet Fabian's home.

JUNE 21

ELIZABETH CIRCLE – 1:30 P.M.

Luncheon-Contact Deborah Chapman for details and reservations.



YOUTH GROUP MEETING TIMES:

1st and 2nd Tuesdays of the month. Also, you can help with a Shared Meal the 3rd Tuesday of the month!

Food Pantry Update of Gratitude and Joy!



Thanks to the generosity of Interfaith Food Alliance (IFA), our food pantry received a very large donation as a result of the recent Postal Carrier food drive.

However, they were not able to supply us with toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent or cleaning supplies so that is where your generosity is still needed.

We will keep you updated when we need more items.

Love, Deb Price (Missions Committee)



LATINO WORSHIP

Saturdays at 6:00 pm in the Latino Ministry Office, Room 26.



Saturday Morning Men's Group

The next meeting of the Men's Bible Study is Saturday June 10th at 8AM in the MUMC lounge. This is the last meeting until September. Men are welcome for good fellowship and encouragement from God's Word! This is the last meeting until September. If you have not been getting an invitation by email, contact Dave Miller (267-614-3836) and you will be put on the invite list.

Dave Miller

The Ivins Outreach Center needs Volunteers:

We encourage you to give the precious gift of time to those in need in your community. The Ivins Outreach Center urgently needs volunteers to assist with our Staying Put in Lower Bucks Program. Staying Put is driven by volunteers who provide services to give homebound seniors the practical means and social support to live their lives to the fullest, safely, and confidently in their own community with familiar connections. Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy, and hair salon appointments. If you have a few hours to spare, we welcome your assistance.

For more information concerning our program, please check our website: ivinsoutreach.org. Or for additional information, please contact Frank Walter at (215) 428-0500 x101 or frank@ivinsoutreach.org.

Roxanne, the Office Administrator, will be on vacation June 12 through June 23.

Office coverage is still needed for Monday, June 12, Wednesday, June 21 and the afternoon of June 23. Please contact the office before June 8 if you can help.

Thank you for being patient with our office volunteers!



Happy Anniversary

| | |
|---|---------|
| Dave & Marianne Miller – 58 years..... | June 2 |
| Janet & Bill Fabian – 37 years..... | June 7 |
| Dave & Nancy Sample – 60 years..... | June 8 |
| Dave & Miriam Burkhardt – 49 years..... | June 15 |
| Shirley Kamann – 62 years | June 17 |
| Don & Charlotte Swenson – 67 years..... | June 17 |
| Debbie & Rich Eickhoff – 48 years..... | June 21 |
| Cheryl & Scott Jeffrey – 32 years..... | June 29 |

Happy Birthday

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Aneza Abalo | June 2 |
| Amelia Abalo | June 3 |
| Rosemary Bensted | June 5 |
| Shirley Malmsbury | June 5 |
| Mackenzie Evans | June 6 |
| Madison Evans | June 6 |
| Abigail LaVecchia | June 6 |
| Doris Gafgen..... | June 7 |
| Edith Massaquoi..... | June 9 |
| Robert Weekly..... | June 11 |
| Brenna Trimble..... | June 13 |
| John Davidson | June 15 |
| Teddy Hughes..... | June 15 |
| Andy McCall | June 15 |
| Jim Dugan..... | June 17 |
| Lynda Krause | June 21 |
| Nancy Pietrocario..... | June 21 |
| Cristian Estrada | June 24 |
| Luretha Jennett | June 27 |
| Don Swenson | June 27 |
| Emma Surdy | June 30 |



Current Prayer Concerns



We pray for Peace. We pray for Ukraine. We pray for Russia. We pray for the families of victims of mass shootings. We pray for Justice and Equality for all.

We ask for your prayers for a smooth transition from Pastor Towanda to Pastor Olga.

Pastor Olga Gonzalez Santiago (our new Pastor) Barbara Gillis, Pam Manners, Isaac Whitter, Jim & Flo Dugan, Toby Ellsworth, Jimmy Ellsworth, Shirley Malmsbury, Thomas Manners, B.J. Lebegern, Evelyn Sipler, Paul & Marian Chapman, Sue Urbano, Alice South, Josephine Karpeh-Kyne, Manny Abalo, Pastor Towanda N.T. Connelly

Family of George Mount (friend of Carol Young)
 Family of Patricia Sullivan (friend of Jane Burger)
 Karen (community member)
 Family of Wanda Long (deceased wife of Harold Long)
 Joan (friend of Vera Straley)
 Maria (friend of Beditza)
 Marcus (friend of Jenn Ayling-Arruda)
 Ellen (niece of Bev Hoyer)
 Elaine (friend of Estella Smires)
 Nahdee (mother of Veronica Marks)
 Hans (brother of Marianne Miller)
 Marilou & Wally (friends of Mickey McDevitt)
 Andrew (friend of Vera Straley)
 Janet (friend of Jenn Ayling-Arruda)
 Maureen (friend of Charlotte Swenson)
 Kate (daughter of Pam Manners)
 Sue (friend of Sue Friend)
 Brenda (cousin of Phyllis Patterson)
 Petra (friend of Linda Mier)
 Paulette (cousin of Stella Smires)
 Ella (granddaughter of Dave and Marianne Miller)



These high school graduates are going to:
Kayla Arana-LaBianco ~ Walnut Hill Culinary College
Emily Huang ~ Drexel
Mark Macwana ~ Drexel
Megan Price ~ Holy Family
Marilyn Quoi – University of Pittsburgh
Meng Wang ~ Drexel

Pastoral Transition

In The United Methodist Church, pastoral appointments are the responsibility of the Bishop. A significant amount of prayer and consultation takes place before each pastor is assigned. The Staff Parish Relations Committee, the Pastor, and District Superintendent are all involved in that process. With God's guidance, the Bishop sets each appointment. This is our Wesleyan way.

During our two years together, we have seen MUMC growth, with more than ten people joining the church and five baptisms. The Latino Ministry is thriving as we've moved from five families to twenty-plus families connected and supported. Our in-person attendance has bounced back, averaging over seventy people on a Sunday. This is good progress. I believe the best is yet to come. God has each of us right where God wants us to be. Remain Faithful!

It is the Bishop's intention that on July 1, 2023, I will no longer be a pastor at Morrisville United Methodist Church and will become pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Arizona. Although I admit there is some uncertainty about this move, the unknown, and leaving my friends in this community, I have grown to love, I am excited about this next step in my pastoral journey. I am sure some of you have questions about what the new pastor will be like and how the church might change. Some of you are even grieving for my sake. We know God is faithful and knows what this church needs. The Lord will provide, but we must first come in prayer. Let us trust and be thankful for the time we've had together, and all that God has accomplished. Let's transform that anxiousness into excitement for new possibilities. I will no longer be

your pastor once I leave this appointment. I will not return for weddings or funerals. It's time for a new pastor with new energy to continue to move this community forward.

Join me in prayer for this time of transition...

*Good and gracious God, we look to you, believing you will shine your light upon us as we experience the unknown of transition. I pray our faith will be strong in knowing that you always have our best interest at heart. Help us not be distracted but lean into what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives and church. Bless pastor Towanda in her going, and Bless pastor Olga in her coming. We receive her role God, with your love and light, in complete anticipation of the wonderful things you have planned for us. As Jeremiah 29:11 assures, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." AMEN! GOD IS FAITHFUL!! Keep moving forward by the leading of the Holy Spirit. **Pastor Towanda***

